

Review of U.S. Attorney General's Travel Costs for USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Related Travel

September 8, 2004

Background

- Between August 19, 2003 and September 9, 2003, the U.S. Attorney General conducted a tour intended, according to the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, to educate the public and inform Members of Congress about the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.
 - After completion of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour, between September 18 and 25, 2003, in a series of trips referred to as “Life and Liberty” travel, the U.S. Attorney General gave a series of speeches regarding crime statistics and other topics, including the importance of the USA PATRIOT Act.
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USA PATRIOT Act Tour Research Objectives

1. What locations did the U.S. Attorney General visit as part of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour and related travel, and what were the related costs of these trips (transportation, lodging, meals, and other expenses), as well as the costs incurred by staff traveling with the U.S. Attorney General, and all costs associated with the advance planning of trips?
2. What was the purpose of the new Life and Liberty website related to the USA PATRIOT Act outreach effort (www.lifeandliberty.gov), and what were the related costs of setting up and maintaining the website?
3. What types of activities did United States Attorneys conduct in response to the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) directive to hold meetings with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003, and what were the related costs?

Department of Justice Data Reviewed

- Attorney General itineraries for USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Life and Liberty travel.
 - Vouchers and travel documentation for the Attorney General and DOJ staff who traveled in connection with the Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act tour and Life and Liberty travel.
 - Cost data on government aircraft flight hours.
 - Expenses incurred by United States Attorneys Offices in connection with the U.S. Attorney General's PATRIOT Act tour visits.
 - Data on DOJ personnel and contractor development costs for the Life and Liberty web site, as well as for recurring costs of maintaining the web site.
 - Data on the dates and purposes of meetings held by U.S. Attorneys with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003.
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USA PATRIOT Act Tour Travel

- The U.S. Attorney General and his staff visited 14 states and 16 cities, including Washington, D.C., as part of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour.
- Trips originally planned to two additional cities and states were canceled.
- A list of the U.S. Attorney General's travel sites, and a list of sites visited for advance purposes, follows.

USA PATRIOT Act Tour Stops

- August 19, 2003
 - Washington, D.C.
- August 20, 2003
 - Philadelphia, PA
 - Cleveland, OH
 - Detroit, MI*
- August 21, 2003
 - Des Moines, IA
- August 25, 2003
 - Salt Lake City, UT
 - Boise, ID
- August 26, 2003
 - Las Vegas, NV
- September 5, 2003
 - Tampa, FL
 - Atlanta, GA
 - Norfolk, VA*
- September 6, 2003
 - Raleigh/Durham, NC
- September 8, 2003
 - Buffalo, NY
 - New Castle, NH
 - Boston, MA*
- September 9, 2003
 - New York, NY

*For these stops, USA PATRIOT Act Tour events began the following day.

USA PATRIOT Act Tour Advance Trips*

August 8, 2003

- 5 staff to Philadelphia, PA

August 10-12, 2003

- 2 staff to Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Milwaukee, WI; and Des Moines, IA
- 1 staff to Cleveland, OH and Des Moines, IA

August 10-13, 2003

- 1 staff to Las Vegas, NV; Salt Lake City, UT; and Boise, ID

August 12-13, 2003

- 1 staff to Boise, ID

August 17-18, 2003

- 1 staff to Tampa, FL

August 18, 2003

- 1 staff to Atlanta, GA

August 19-20, 2003

- 1 staff to Philadelphia, PA

August 19-21, 2003

- 1 staff to Philadelphia, PA; Charleston, WV; and Durham, NC

August 21, 2003

- 1 staff to Durham, NC

August 22-26, 2003

- 1 staff to Boise, ID

August 28-29, 2003

- 1 staff to Atlanta, GA

September 4-6, 2003

- 1 staff to Tampa, FL and Durham, NC

September 7-8, 2003

- 1 staff to Manchester, NH

September 7-9, 2003

- 1 staff to New York, NY

September 8-9, 2003

- 1 staff to New York, NY

*These trips were for, in some cases, advance preparation for press coverage. Also, for some trips, staff arrived late in the day on the day prior to the U.S. Attorney General's official visit.

Life and Liberty Travel

- The U.S. Attorney General and his staff visited 13 states and 16 cities, including Washington, D.C.
- A list of the U.S. Attorney General's travel sites, and those visited for advance purposes, follows.

Life and Liberty Travel Stops

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- September 18, 2003
 - Louisville, KY
 - Memphis, TN
 - Little Rock, AR
 - Minneapolis, MN*
 - September 19, 2003
 - Omaha, NE
 - Kansas City, MO
 - September 22, 2003
 - Milwaukee, WI
 - Cincinnati, OH
 - Pittsburgh, PA
 - September 24, 2003
 - Washington, D.C.
 - Columbia, SC
 - Jacksonville, FL
 - Tallahassee, FL
 - New Orleans, LA*
 - September 25, 2003
 - Nashville, TN
 - Charlotte, NC

*For these stops, Life and Liberty travel events began the following day.

Life and Liberty Advance Trips*

September 10, 2003

- 1 staff to Louisville, KY

September 11-12, 2003

- 1 staff to Minneapolis, MN and Cincinnati, OH

September 11-12, 2003

- 1 staff to Omaha, NE and Kansas City, MO

September 11-16, 2003

- 1 staff to Memphis, TN; Little Rock, AR; Jacksonville, FL; Tallahassee, FL; and Columbia, SC

September 16-17, 2003

- 1 staff to Charlotte, NC; New Orleans, LA; and Nashville, TN

September 17-18, 2003

- 1 staff to Louisville, KY and Little Rock, AR
- 1 staff to Louisville, KY

September 18-19, 2003

- 1 staff to Omaha, NE

September 21-22, 2003

- 1 staff to Pittsburgh, PA

September 23-24, 2003

- 2 staff to Columbia, SC

September 23-25, 2003

- 1 staff to Tallahassee, FL and Nashville, TN

September 23-25, 2003

- 1 staff to Jacksonville, FL and Charlotte, NC

*These trips were for, in some cases, advance preparation for press coverage. Also, for some trips, staff arrived late in the day on the day prior to the U.S. Attorney General's official visit.

USA PATRIOT Act Tour Expenses

Government aircraft	\$48,547.00
DOJ aircraft (12.4 hours)	•\$21,452.00
Non-DOJ aircraft (16.2 hours)	•\$27,095.00
Travel voucher expenses (excluding government aircraft)	\$20,513.89
Expenses incurred by U.S. Attorneys Offices in connection with Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act visits	\$83,301.00
Conference room rental	•\$23,965.00
Audio-visual equipment rental	•\$45,426.00
Other equipment/rental/purchase	•\$12,840.00
Miscellaneous expenses	•\$ 1,070.00
Total	\$152,361.89

Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Justice data.

Life and Liberty Travel Expenses

Government aircraft	\$28,550.00
DOJ aircraft (18.2 hours)	•\$23,825.00
Non-DOJ aircraft (7 hours)	•\$ 4,725.00
Travel voucher expenses (excluding government aircraft)	\$18,588.15
Total	\$47,138.15

Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Justice data.

Life and Liberty Web Site Expenses

Life and Liberty web site development cost for DOJ personnel	\$792.64
Life and Liberty web site development cost for contractor	\$3,918.90
Life and Liberty web site recurring costs (From August 25, 2003 to June 29, 2004, a total of 71.5 hours were expended to maintain the website)	\$3,918.90
Total	\$8,630.44

Source: U.S. Department of Justice data.

Life and Liberty Web Site

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- On August 19, 2003, DOJ began operation of the Life and Liberty Internet web site, which includes, among other things,
 - speeches from Administration officials related to the USA PATRIOT Act,
 - DOJ information on myths and realities regarding the Act,
 - House and Senate voting records on the Act,
 - statements of Members of Congress on the Act,
 - the results of national opinion polls on the Act,
 - stories and articles on the Act,
 - DOJ testimony before Congress on the Act,
 - the text of the USA PATRIOT Act, and
 - DOJ accomplishments on the war on terror.
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U.S. Attorneys' Meetings with Members of Congress and Public on USA PATRIOT Act

- 80 of 93 United States Attorneys reported conducting activities in response to the EOUSA directive to meet with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003.
 - The activities included
 - in-person, telephone, or written contacts with Members of Congress;
 - radio, television, and print media interviews and appearances;
 - editorials in local newspapers;
 - participation in local debates and forums with representatives from organizations such as the ACLU; and
 - speeches before local groups, such as rotary clubs, university audiences, town meetings, and law enforcement organizations.
 - Meetings were also conducted earlier and later than the August and September 2003 time frame.
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Data Not Available on Costs Associated with U.S. Attorneys' USA PATRIOT Act Activities

- According to a DOJ official, EOUSA did not track costs associated with meetings held by U.S. Attorneys with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003.
- According to a DOJ official, staff may not be able to recall and reconstruct their time expenditures accurately because these activities occurred almost a year ago.

Total Expenses Related to USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Life and Liberty Travel

USA PATRIOT Act Tour Expenses	\$152,361.89
Life and Liberty Travel Expenses	\$47,138.15
Life and Liberty Web Site Expenses	\$8,630.44
Total Identified Expenses	\$208,130.48

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Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Justice data.